

Norway: Migration and Immigration

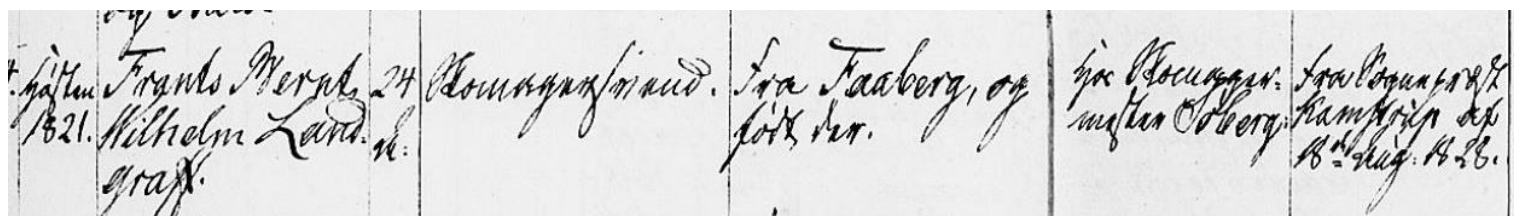
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Objectives:

- Understand the migration within Norway's borders
- The "Why and Where"
- Understand who immigrated to Norway, why they came, and where they came from

As we look back in time we see that most Norwegians stayed close to home. When they did move it was usually to a parish close by, or to a neighboring "clerical district". There are many reasons people moved, but the most common reasons were:

- Occupational training (an apprentice moving to, or around with a "master craftsman" to learn a craft)
- Work (moving to where work could be found)
- Marriage (wife often moved to husband's parish)
- Old age (parents moving to live with a child, or child moving in with parents to take over the farm)



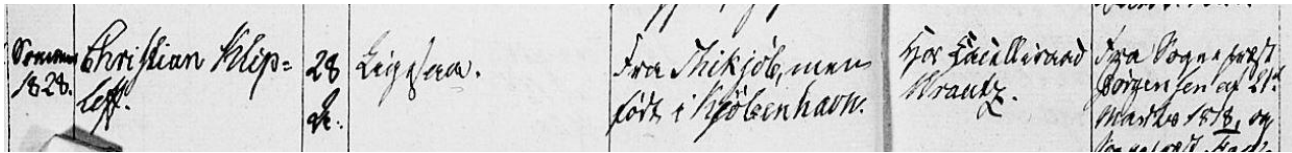
A shoemaker apprentice moving from a small parish (Faaberg where her was born) to train with a master shoemaker in Oslo

Moving patterns:

- As the local population increased people moved from the countryside to the cities.
- People moved from inland to the coastal areas.
- If people were looking for work they would be moving before planting (April/May) and harvesting started (October/November) to be situated when these important happenings got going!
- Some people moved after the spring planting (April/ May) and after the harvest (October/November). Some had come from "out of town", and were going back to their home parishes.

There have never been big groups of "common people" immigrating to Norway from any European country. During various time periods, a slow influx of people from the neighboring

countries happened; from Sweden, Finland and Denmark, as well as from Germany. The medieval merchant guild called the “Hanseatic League” was started by Germans. A few Dutchmen can also be found arriving, and a few Brits.



Christian is coming from Thikjøb in Denmark to work in Oslo. He was born in Copenhagen.

Many craftsmen and specialists arrived in Norway (merchants, glassworkers, and miners) to pursue their craft or share their knowledge with the Norwegians people.

Through-out history the Sami people have notably been a migrant people who crossed the borders of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia on a regular basis. They drove their huge herds of reindeer from one grazing area to another. Some still do that today, while others have migrated from the northern parts of Norway to other parts through-out the country, and have been assimilated into the rest of the Norwegian population.

Various moving records:

Moving in and out records: The Lutheran Church was the record keeping jurisdiction. These records were supposed to start in 1812, but many did not start until 1814. They are considered the least accurate of the record types the priests kept, and can be found in the local parish registers.

These records could include the following information:

- Names of all persons in the family, including children
- Ages, or exact birth dates and years
- Local residence, farm names
- Marital status
- Where they are going, and when
- When they arrived into the parish, and from where
- Reason for moving
- Occupations

Moving certificates/Attester: The government wanted to control social and geographic mobility. (1661-1814)

“Presteattester” or “flytteattester” (moving certificates): A record of “all” who applied for a passport. 1803-1860- Norwegians had to carry “ID” when travelling around the country.

The local parish priest would fill out a moving certificate which the people would carry with them when moving from place to place. This was presented to the priest in the new area.

Information found in the certificates could include the following:

- Name of the person travelling
- Age
- Destination

- Marriage status
- Occupation
- Free from military
- Vaccination
- Date of last communion
- When confirmed in the Lutheran church, or if confirmed

Politiets flytteprotokoller (moving documents in the police archives): After 1900, the police took over the record keeping of persons moving in and out of parishes. These were kept till about 1942-43, and can be found in “Statsarkivenes politi-og lensmannsarkiver”.

These are some of the different kinds of “protokoller” (ledgers):

- Passport / Reisepass: could include the following information: a person’s name, age, eye and hair color, built, place of birth, as well as time and destination of travel.
- Pass protokoll: Names, when and where going
- Politiets fremmedprotokoller: registers of “foreign” citizens living in Norway, travelers. Some are alphabetical lists of persons. (By last name). Others have detailed information on the “visitors”! Where the moving in and out records are missing these can be a great substitute!

3/10 17	Personlig	Karl Alfred Benjaminsen Hustru Berda Teresia Hermanusdatter	29/3 17	Født 29/6 84 i Hødem havn Svensk Stabborger Født 9/2 90 i Skerfvinge Skofaborgs län, Sverige. F. 9/6 14 i Borås, S. 2/2 16 - S. S. 3/8 17 - Sandnes Norge S. S.	Flyttingeakt fra Vestkøbenhavn i Rønne København stift. Følger län. Arbejder ved Jernbanen	3/10 17	4/10 17 underskrevet Valentin. Rogala Flyttet til Vigerød 3/10 21. Anna. 3/12 20
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This particular record keeper recorded exact birth information for the whole family!

- Centralpasskontoret
- Statsborgersakene: started around 1880—regarding citizenships
- Extraskatten’s av- og tilgangslister 1762: The Extra Tax records of 1762- some moving information

Clues to family members residences outside the parish boundaries (and places of birth) can sometimes be found in the local parish registers:

- Christening and marriage records (see below); i.e. where are the couple getting married from, and where are the godparents, and/or sponsors from?
- Confirmation records can give place of residence and information of birth.
- Kommunikant bøker (communion books): People partook of communion on a regular basis; the records can be helpful to pin down a time period of possible move.
- Probates: where are the heirs living?

10	1	1. 1.	Edvard Olofson Jørgen, Hustru Karta Wilhelmina (D) Jørgen	Født 24/7 60 conf. i København S. 24/7 75 conf. i Jernløse i Jørgen, datter.	Olof Olofson Jørgen Nils Jørgensen
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Marriage in Eidsberg, Østfold, Norway: Bride and groom both from Sweden: birthdates and places of confirmation recorded!!

Sources for immigration and emigration:

Local moving in and out records in the individual parishes.

Emigrantprotokoller (www.digitalarkivet.no)

Finnemantallet 1686: People of Finnish descent having come via Sweden; not complete. Book: FHL 948.1 X2

Other: Akershus stiftamtsarkiv: Swedes moving in to Østlandet 1710-1794 (can be found in the "Statsarkivet")

Østfold historielag: innflytta svensker til Østfold 1812-1920 (Swedes moving to Østfold County): <http://digitalarkivet.arkivverket.no/gen/sok/2/100653>

Amerikabrev (letters from America): <http://www.hist.uib.no/digitalskolen/oe/Amerikabrev.htm>

Norsk Utvandermuseum (Hamar): www.emigrantmuseum.no

For additional information on immigration and emigration see articles on FamilySearch.org Wiki page for Norway

- https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Emigration_and_Immigration
- https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Emigration_and_Immigration#Records_of_Norwegian_Immigrants_in_the_Other_Countries

Searchable databases for emigration and immigration (very limited for immigration to Norway)

- www.digitalarkivet.no
- www.norwegianheritage.com